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Presentation in October 2005 by Dr Adam Graycar,
Executive Director, Cabinet Office, Department of
the Premier and Cabinet

"Role of Governments, Cabinet and the Public
Service"

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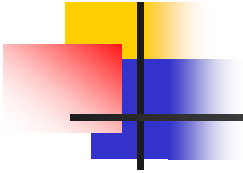
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The role of Governments, Cabinet and the Public Service

Dr Adam Graycar

Executive Director, Cabinet Office

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

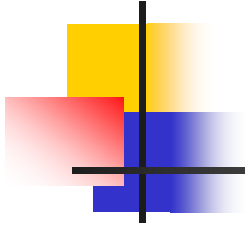
October 2005



Snapshot of the SA Government

- The government manages the State Budget of over \$10 billion
- There are 15 Ministers sharing 45 portfolios
- 13 main Departments
- 86,885 public sector employees (72,141 FTEs) as at June 2004 which represented 12.1% of persons employed in SA
- 58% (41,962.4 FTEs) employed in Administrative Units, 42% (30,178.6 FTEs) in other public sector organisations eg Statutory bodies





■ What do Governments do?



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The role of Ministers

- Premier assigns responsibilities
- Responsible to Parliament for portfolio areas assigned by the Premier

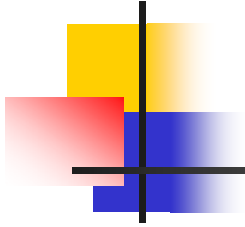




"In the ordinary course of administering a recognised part of the government of the state..."

- direct & control statutory bodies & public corporations
- Obtain, retain and publish information
- Make delegated legislation
- Direct and control statutory bodies and public corporations





- Make contracts
- Make payments
- Buy and sell goods
- Lease land
- Build works





The Role of Cabinet

- What is Cabinet?
- Cabinet is the central decision making body of government
- Cabinet considers the political, policy and administrative implications of a proposal and settles a government position





The Role of the Public Service

- Public servants are part of the executive arm of government
- The work of public servants is driven by the policy priorities of the government of the day





Policy-making

- Nine features of policy making
 - Forward looking
 - Outward looking
 - Innovative, flexible, creative
 - Evidence based
 - Inclusive
 - Joined up
 - Evaluation
 - Review
 - Learns lessons



Developing Good Public Policy

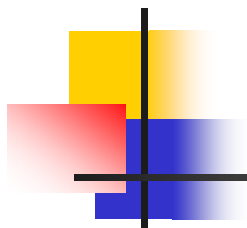
“Good process cannot guarantee good policy but it does encourage rigour and prevent elementary mistakes.”

**Bridgman and Davis: *The Australian Policy Handbook*
(3rd Edition, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2004)**



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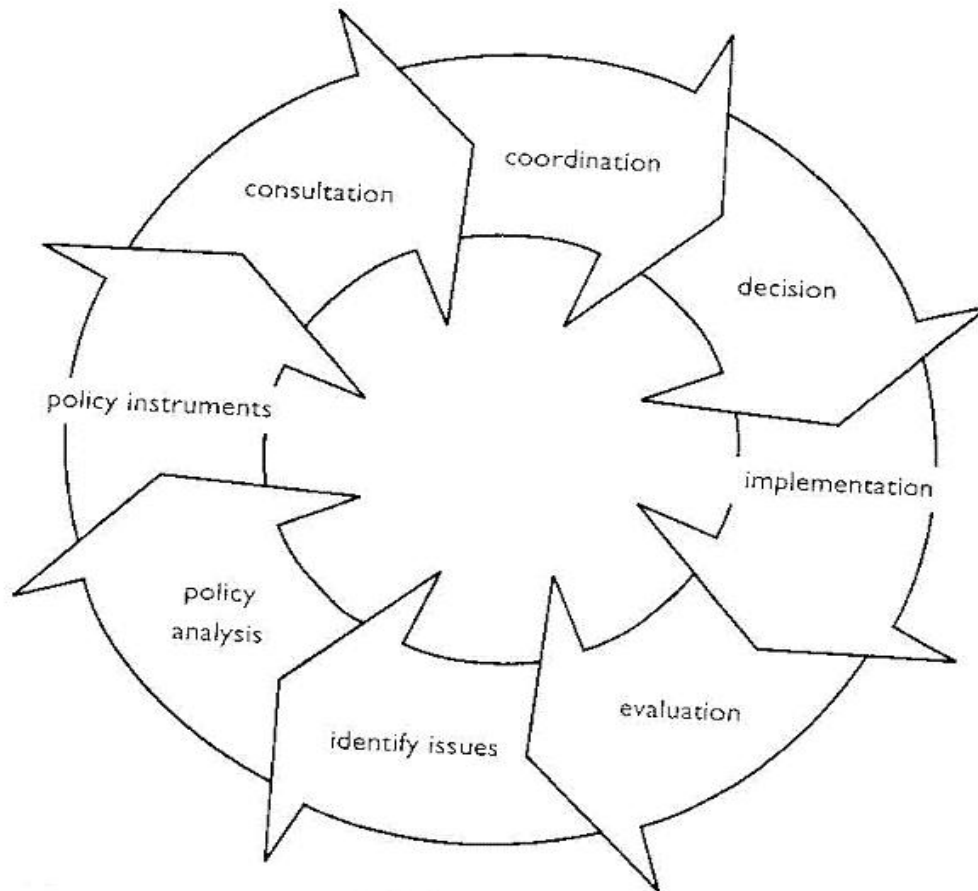


The Policy Development Process

- There are various different models of a good policy process
- The *policy cycle* approach is probably the most useful
 - Policy develops through a standard sequence of tasks
 - The cycle approach stresses that government is a process



The Australian Policy Cycle



Bridgman and Davis: *The Australian Policy Handbook* (3rd Edition, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2004)



Identifying Issues

- The problem?



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Policy Analysis

- How important is this problem?
- How much time and effort should be expended in seeking a solution?
- What is the best approach?

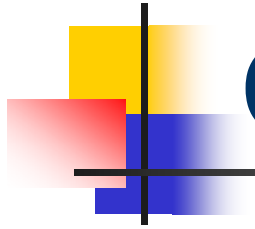




Policy Instruments

- There are four main policy instruments
 - Advocacy
 - Money
 - Government action
 - Law





Consultation

- A tool used to test the policy with the wider community and key stakeholders
 - Information
 - Consultation
 - Partnerships
 - Delegation





Coordination

- Government processes to minimise policy conflicts
 - Consultation
 - Cabinet process



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Decision

- Cabinet's decision is the pivot of the public policy cycle
- Of the vast range of policy development activity being carried out across government, around 12 are presented to Cabinet each week for discussion and a decision.

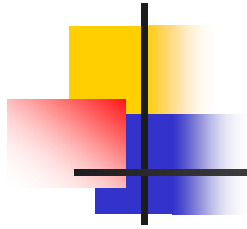




Implementation

- A good policy development process is of little value if the policy is not implemented
- Consider the implementation needs early to foresee any possible pitfalls





Evaluation

- The systematic and objective assessment of a government program
- The effectiveness of the policy is reviewed and a new cycle of analysis begins

